

March 21, 2009

ESSINGTON, PA—On March 21, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke at the Blue Star Mothers Luncheon in Essington, Pa., about the dedication of military families and his efforts to care for active service members, veterans, and their families. The Congressman was introduced by Philadelphia Chapter President Marian Moran.

“As someone who served this nation for 31 years in the Navy, I know the toll deployments take on the families of our Armed Service members,” said Congressman Sestak. “Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines don’t go to war—families go to war, and nations go to war. Just as we should never forget the brave men and women serving overseas in harm’s way, we should never forget the courageous family members that remain behind—family members that take care of children, that pick up the slack, that worry every night about the safety and well-being of loved ones who stand on the front lines in defense of our nation.”

This month, Congressman Sestak voted for, and the House of Representatives passed, a resolution urging President Obama to designate 2009 a year of official recognition of the commitment and sacrifice of military families. “I proudly support designating this year officially—as all years should be in spirit— ‘The Year of the Military Family,’” the Congressman said.

Just this week, Congressman Sestak announced his opposition to any plan that would force America’s Veterans to use private health insurance to pay for treatment of service-related injuries or disabilities and signed on to a letter urging President Obama to abandon any plans to do so—a letter that the President has thankfully heeded.

“America’s Veterans have earned the full support of their nation,” said Congressman Sestak. “Veterans and their families can be fully assured that I will oppose any plan that would bill wounded Veterans’ private insurance for the care they receive. There is a sacred trust between a nation and its warriors, and I will always fight to ensure that this trust is never threatened, weakened, or broken.”

Active duty service members, veterans, and their families are Congressman Sestak's highest priority. He visits regularly with military and veterans organizations, has met with experts and Veterans Administration leaders to discuss ways to address Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and will be hosting his third Veterans Summit on May 11 at Ridley High School.

Blue Star Mothers is a nonprofit, non-political organization of the mothers of current or former service members. The organization dates back to World War II and a Philadelphia Chapter was formed three years ago.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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